



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**ESSENTIALS OF DERMATOLOGY**—4th Edition—Norman Tobias, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Dermatology, St. Louis University. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 596 pages, 186 figures, 6 subjects in color on 3 plates, \$6.00.

This volume, intended for students and beginners in dermatology, fulfills its purpose even though its very brevity forces the author to make dogmatic statements which could be better qualified if more space were available to him.

The American terminology, keratoderma and erythroderma, for example, should be consistently adhered to rather than the British which occasionally slips in, e.g., keratoderma and erythrodermia. Dermatitis nodularis necrotica is incorrectly linked with both acne conglobata and erythema induratum, totally unrelated diseases. The term "liver spots" is given as a synonym to both tinea versicolor and chloasma, dissimilar disorders. No mention is made of the treponema immobilization test in the discussion of false-positive serologic reactions. The statement that "Ringworm of the scalp does not occur after puberty" should be revised in view of Pipkin's report of many such occurrences. More detailed instructions in regard to treatment could be given if space were saved by omitting many of the rare dermatoses.

The black and white photographs are good. It is unfortunate that the prohibitive cost of colored photographs, so valuable to the beginner in dermatology, has limited the number of them in this volume to six. We hope that future editions can be properly illustrated in color.

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**CIRCULATORY DYNAMICS—Physiologic Studies**—Carl J. Wiggers, M.D., Sc.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Physiology, School of Medicine, Western Reserve University, Cleveland. Modern Medical Monographs, No. 4, Grune & Stratton, New York, 1952. 107 pages, \$4.00.

This welcome volume consists of three chapters based upon lectures delivered by Professor Wiggers during the last two years. They represent, therefore, his current views after a long career devoted to physiology of the circulation.

"Basic Hemodynamic Principles in the Interpretation of Circulatory Disorders" discusses what its title promises, with particular attention to arterial pressure and its measurement, the pulse wave and arterial hypertension.

"Determinants of Cardiac Performance" (previously published in identical form in *Circulation*, 4:485-495, October 1951) has to do with Starling's law of the heart and related problems.

"Dynamics of Ventricular Contraction under Abnormal Conditions" (slightly expanded and modified from the version which appeared in *Circulation*, 5:321-348, March 1952) includes information relative to ventricular pressure pulses as altered by a number of clinical conditions including arterial hypertension, pericardial effusion and valvular lesions.

Typography is good, there are extensive bibliographies and an index, and the volume is warmly recommended.

**EGO DEVELOPMENT AND THE PERSONALITY DISORDERS—A Developmental Approach to Psychopathology**—David P. Ausubel, M.D., Ph.D., Bureau of Research and Service, College of Education, University of Illinois, Urbana. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1952. 564 pages. \$10.00.

This book of over 500 pages is an attempt to present "A systematic and comprehensive developmental theory of psychopathology..." While the presentation considers the Freudian approach, the writer attempts a more eclectic viewpoint, presents the many differences of opinion that prevail in the psychiatric field and attempts to evaluate the various differences of opinion and point out which views are most acceptable. Certain parts of the book are very clearly and simply written; other parts are quite detailed and somewhat difficult to follow. On the whole the author presents a well balanced and scholarly formulation of his material. The reviewer is particularly impressed with the manner in which the hereditary constitutional factors are dealt with and the relative roles assigned to hereditary factors and environmental factors. The book can be recommended to all psychiatrists as a critical evaluation of psychiatric and particularly psychoanalytic formulations. The average reader will find some parts of it very interesting and very helpful, but may find difficulty with some of the formulations. The book will undoubtedly be criticized by orthodox Freudians for not accepting the psychoanalytic view of psychosexual development and for not emphasizing more the role of the unconscious.

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**BRAIN TUMORS OF CHILDHOOD**—Henry Cuneo, M.D., Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery, University of Southern California School of Medicine; and Carl W. Rand, M.D., Clinical Professor of Neurological Surgery, University of Southern California. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1952. 224 pages. \$5.75.

In reviewing the 83 cases of brain tumor treated by them at the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles during the last decade, Cuneo and Rand have made a considerable contribution to the literature concerning this subject. The monograph is of principal interest as a report of the clinical and pathological findings in these patients, some of which are extraordinary, and as a record of the views of the authors on diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to the problems of a similar character. As such the appeal is most to the neurological surgeon and neurologist. Pediatricians will find many points of interest in the sections devoted to early signs of brain tumor in childhood and to differential diagnoses.

It is hoped that the second edition will include all of the children with brain tumors who have come under the care of these authors. Allusion is made to these from time to time, and the result is tantalizing. The added cases should materially enhance the value of the book, and perhaps could provide a firmer basis for some generalizations which at present seem to have inadequate support.